

March 12, 2002

Dr. Jeff Koenings, Director
Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Dr. Koenings,

The purpose of this letter is two fold.

First I would like to complement Mike Bireley on the excellent work he has done in forging the Cherry Creek Cooperative Compliance Project. As I'm sure you know, Cherry Creek is one of, if not the, most important salmon tributaries in Western Washington. Mike has started the ball rolling on what should create an exponential rise in the populations of wild endangered salmon. He should get an award for bringing all the diverse interests that make up this project to the same table and another award for keeping us all there. Mike has not only accomplished that, but has made the project an exciting one to be involved with and we will miss him greatly. Mike has taught us much about stewardship, organization and how government, environmentalists and farmers can work together.

Secondly, I would like to ask that your agency continues to insure that the project continues on. The commissioners that make up Drainage District #7 do not have all the qualifications needed to captain this project to completion. I have learned a lot about how the government works with this project and I think it's imperative that an "insider" continue to steer the ship. One of the goals of all the people that are involved with this project is that it becomes a model for other districts and other salmon tributaries surrounded by farms. This will require a lot of work, but it is a great chance to make a large difference.

Respectfully yours,



Mike Galos
Commissioner
Drainage District #7

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